

You use your power to believe every day, in believing the statements of men. You are believing the lies of the devil, as long as you continue in unbelief; and surely you have power to believe the saving truth of God's gospel.

If it be possible for you to believe in Jesus, there must be a truth for you to believe. It must be a fact that Jesus died for you. It does not become a truth that Jesus died for you, by your act of faith. Faith has not power to change the contingent into the categorical. It is not true that Jesus died for you if you believe, and that your believing makes it true that he died for you. That he died for you must be either true or false, irrespective either of your faith or unbelief. But as God commands you to believe in Jesus, and as it must be possible for you to believe in him, it must be a truth that he atoned for all your sins. If there be any sinners for whom Jesus died not, to such there is no gospel; their salvation is as impossible as is that of devils, and the Saviour's words which teach us that there is a gospel for every creature, are a lie. But Jesus died for all men. You are commanded to believe the truth that he died for you. The gospel announces to you that Jesus atoned for all your sins, and that God in him is a satisfied God, before you believe and in order that you may believe. "To you is the word of this salvation sent." It is your duty and your privilege to say, as Paul said, "Jesus loved me and gave himself for me."

If it be possible for you to believe in Jesus, God must have provided the Holy Spirit for you. Nothing can be clearer from the word of God than that no one can believe without the Holy Spirit. So that if the Spirit be withheld from any one, faith in his case, is an impossibility. But how can we vindicate the Divine character as just and consistent, if we maintain that he commands men to believe and threatens them with perdition because of unbelief, and at the same time, withholds from all but an unconditionally elected number, the influence requisite that they may believe? But the love and work of the Spirit are just as